



# Foggy Bottom News

Published for and by the citizens of Foggy Bottom

January 1985

Volume 29, No. 8

## ANC, FBA START HISTORIC PRESERVATION GRANT PROGRAM

by Steve Levy

The Advisory Neighborhood Commission is pleased to announce a grant to the Foggy Bottom Association to help continue work in preserving and enhancing the environment of Foggy Bottom and West End. As the resolution explains the intent and limitations of the grant, it is presented below:

### RESOLUTION OF ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 2A

Whereas the Foggy Bottom Association (FBA) and ANC2a share the same objective of preserving and enhancing the residential environment of Foggy Bottom and the West End; and

Whereas the FBA and ANC have jointly pursued many historic preservation projects, including a joint grant with the U.S. Department of the Interior, via the DC Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (in Fiscal Year 1984); and

Whereas, while the FBA was, in part, specifically incorporated to pursue historic preservation but lacks a major funding resource to do so:

*Be it therefore resolved* that ANC2a hereby grants to the FBA a fund in the amount of \$5838 under the following terms and conditions:

[1] The principal amount of \$5838 may only be spent on historic preservation projects, as defined below in paragraph 3, within or affecting the area within the boundaries of ANC2a and the FBA;

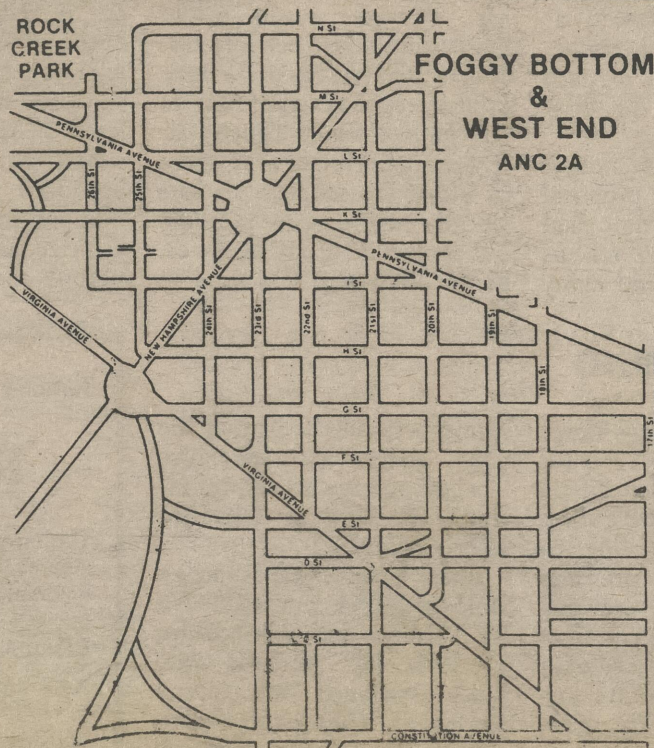
[2] Any interest received on the principal amount by the FBA may be spent for any purpose determined by the FBA Board, including but not limited to the purposes described below in paragraph 3;

[3] The principal amount of \$5838 shall be expended with the approval of the FBA Board only for the following or essentially similar purposes:

[3a] research and surveys necessary to prepare applications for historic designation, including ancillary expenses thereto (e.g., photography, photocopies);

[3b] representation before Federal or local government agencies authorized to approve or effectuate approval of the formal designation of historic districts or landmarks, including initial designation, changes or acceptance for or maintenance on the National Register of Historic Places.

*Continued, last page*



## LAND USE DISASTER AVERTED

Steve Levy

Its nice to be able to report a success! After an intensive lobbying effort by local residents, large areas of our neighborhood have been saved from potential commercial re-development. The DC City Council, on December 18, 1984, adopted a "land use element" for the Comprehensive Plan which reaffirms the residential character of most parts of the neighborhood. While most of low ground Foggy Bottom (west of 23rd Street) was not directly threatened, areas which were saved included blocks south of the George Washington University campus, blocks along Pennsylvania Avenue and L Street, and Columbia Plaza. This is not to say that the neighborhood got everything it asked for or that future residential uses are assured without our continued future vigilance, but a development disaster was averted and the neighborhood can face the future on a sounder footing than existed before. The Land Use Element of the D.C. Comprehensive Plan has been a bone of contention between developers and residents because it controls much of the future course of development in our neighborhood and across the city for the next 25 years. This article summarizes what the Foggy Bottom Association and the Foggy Bottom and West End Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC2a) were able to accomplish with the help of the massive number of lobbying calls by community residents and the assistance of key members of the City Council. While the enacted land use element, as Councilmember Betty Ann Kane recently described, "is not as well tuned a planning document as many of us had hoped to have", it does represent "a considerable improvement over the first document submitted by the Mayor in 1983... [and] does enact the land use maps and does mandate ward planning." In most cases we now have a substantive tool to help us assure that future development respects and is consistent with the essential nature of our neighborhood. I hope that we and civic organizations throughout the city will continue to try to improve the city's planning and zoning processes, and that residents of Foggy Bottom and West End will continue to help us lobby city hall to effect these changes.

In 1983, after extensive comments were made by the ANC and FBA, the Mayor sent to the City Council the various elements proposed for enactment as the Comprehensive Plan. Among the elements were land use, historic preservation, human services, transportation, housing and many more. After many public hearings and much wrangling, with the

*Continued, page 7*

## Meeting Foggy Bottom Association

**Monday, January 28, 1984**

*St. Paul's Parish House  
2430 K Street N.W.  
8:00 PM*

**GUEST SPEAKER  
THOMAS DOWNS**

*City Administrator: Deputy Mayor  
for Operations  
District of Columbia*



# Letter To The Editor

I was surprised to read the recent letter to the editor from Jon Nowick regarding the Whitehurst freeway because not only was it misguided in tone but also it failed to bring out many of the true facts which would have shed a new light on the whole situation.

While it is true that the ANC handled the freeway item awkwardly putting it at the end of the meeting, the proposal had to be done quickly so that it could be used as a possible stop gap measure. Contrary to Mr. No-

wick's assumption, many residents both north and south of K Street were aware of what was happening and what might be accomplished with this new proposal to alleviate the problem involving Westbridge etc.

Following a meeting involving a fairly large number of our residents at John Wilson's office at which time we all were warned about what was happening to the freeway proposals, how they would affect us, and what was needed to be done to cement the total picture of Foggy bottom involvement, Mrs. Tyler and the others had to work fast in order to get a basic proposal before the commission to push for changes before the door was completely closed.

Mr. Nowick's comment that no one knew of the proposal was wrong. At no time had Mrs. Tyler failed to tell us what was intended and many

of us polled by Mrs. Tyler at a meeting held at her home, or on the street or even in several cases within the various buildings do live north of K Street. Some of us felt this new proposal, while narrow in scope, did indeed offer relief to another proposal which talked about a ramp at 26th Street in front of Westbridge. It surprises me that Mr. Nowick did not know of the proposed resolutions. Many of us were informed of what was to be discussed, of the importance of attendance at the meeting, and how it could affect us. If Mr. Nowick would spend more time constructively discussing what needs to be done in order to make sure that all alternatives would equally affect residents in our area, most of whom are property owners who do take part in and help out all facets of city agencies, as he does, and less time in

back stabbing guided by partial evidence we might be able to come up with workable solutions.

Westbridge Freeway efforts came to life when they were threatened by the ramp, traffic flow, etc. and through their efforts made the rest of us aware of their concern, needs and wishes a direct result of which was the very proposal, very basic in plan into which changes could be put, which would ease the problems on 24th and 25th Streets and yet not harm Westbridge or even Knightsbridge. If more people came out to ANC meetings, learned of the various problems affecting our area and showed more concern about solving problems before they start, we would not have the current approach on the part of a number of our neighbors to criticize actions of our ANC before they hear what has

been happening over a period of time. To do any justice to an argument, the critic should have attended a number of ANC and other local meetings, listened to the needs of constituents, and then formed a judgement for or against a specific proposal. Anyone can form an opinion and speak out but to do so one needs a full picture of the problem before the group. Mr. Nowick was our ANC representative in times past and while he was a competent person, he was still unaware of the special needs of some of the residents who live right in his back yard or of certain trends which were to cause problems after he left the ANC. I feel that Mr. Nowick should have checked more closely before he wrote the letter under discussion.

Robert Alcorn

## Glen Echo Park Winter Brochure

Glen Echo Park's winter brochure is off the presses and ready for you. Call 492-6282 to get a copy listing classes for adults and children in the fine

### Grant

(continued from front page)

[3c] defense of applications or historic status which have been challenged in the court system, and defense of the FBA and/or ANC if sued for submission or support of such applications [Note: These funds may not be used to bring suit, but may be used to prepare or file any *amicus* brief deemed advisable].

[4] The ANC has no authority to compel the FBA to spend or to refrain from spending either the interest or principal of the fund, and the ANC also has no vote, majority or minority, in the decisions by the FBA Board to effect such expenditures;

[5] The ANC may add to the original grant from time to time;

[6] The FBA Board has the sole discretion to determine the amounts expended, pursuant to this grant; and

[7] The FBA shall provide an annual accounting to the ANC, at the first day of the FBA fiscal year, of expenditures out of grant principal, and, as expenditures are made, shall advise the ANC of recipients, amounts and purposes of such expenditures.

Moved: Commissioner Levy  
Seconded: Commissioner Rigdon

In favor: Rosenbaum,  
Rigdon, Levy and  
Molinelli

Opposed: Tyler  
Abstentions: None

The resolution passed 4-1  
December 12, 1984

Continued, last page

arts and crafts. Classes range in tuition from \$11-\$150 for persons from 5 years old on up. New to Glen Echo Park is a class in monoprinting by Carla Klevan; also offerings include painting, drawing, sculpture, woodworking, fiber arts, ceramics, dance, metals and enamels, printmaking, drama, framing and papier mache.

The brochure also lists year-

round activities including the plays offered by Adventure Theatre and the art shows currently on view in the Glen Echo Gallery.

Glen Echo Park is accessible by the N4, 5 and Ride On 31. There are scholarships available for persons who need assistance with tuition for classes. Glen Echo Park is sponsored by the National Park Service.

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## Soggy Bottom Babies

New Parents in Foggy Bottom Vicinity  
call Maryanna at 338-7449  
to be placed on our listing for holiday  
parties at the playground.  
Meet other Neighborhood parents.

January 1985

Volume 29, No. 8

## Foggy Bottom News

The Foggy Bottom News is a publication of the Foggy Bottom Association. All editorial and other assistance is contributed on a volunteer basis by residents of the area.

Editor ..... Deborah Cahill-Zelinka

Assistant Editor ..... Donna St. John

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Crime Watch ..... Bob Alcorn  
From the Bottom Up ..... Puck  
Local News ..... Elizabeth Charette  
All announcements, letters, articles, etc., welcome but must be typed **double spaced**. Please include an evening phone number. Send to:

### FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS

% West End Library  
24th & L Sts., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20037

Next issue deadline: February 5, 1985

The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the writers. Their appearance here constitutes neither an endorsement nor official policy of the Foggy Bottom Association.

### 1984-85 Officers

President ..... Ellie Becker  
Vice President ..... Robert Brewster  
Secretary ..... Lois Zuckerman  
Treasurer ..... Paul Altemus

### Executive Board

Bob Alcorn, Julia Bond, Robert Charles, Isabella Geppert, Mor-  
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Miss

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Year Ending  
June 30



## Beautification Awards Ceremony

By: Alfred Cottrell

It was my pleasure to be among those who attended Mayor Marion Barry's annual Beautification Awards Ceremony December 5, 1984, at the new and attractive facilities of the University of the District of Columbia at Connecticut Avenue and Van Ness Street, N.W.

As many of our readers know, the Mayor with his usual skill and finesse selected our own Miss Mary Healy to be the Chairperson of the Advisory Committee for City-wide Neighborhood Beautification. The awards ceremony, arranged and chaired by Miss Healy, was attended by more than 500 of the city's concerned citizens.

The program was enlivened by the Duke Ellington School of the Arts Student Band, the Metropolitan Police Department's Honor Guard and the renowned soloist of the Police Department, Mr. Joseph A. Burden. A reception followed the ceremony at which a beautiful and bountiful table greeted the awardees and their friends.

As the ceremony concluded Mayor Barry was profuse in his praise for Mary Healy and for the outstanding job done by the committee under her leadership. He left no doubt that the beautification efforts so well started would continue to be a high priority item in the city's programs for 1985 and other years to come.

Approximately 300 awards were presented to private citizens, "Mom and Pop" businesses, hospitals, schools, hotels, banks, rental apartments, condominiums, cooperatives,

embassies and a residence for senior citizens.

The awards were given for a multitude of efforts by citizens that included keeping sidewalks and gutters cleaned and swept every day, keeping alleys cleaned, maintaining beautiful gardens, tending and caring for public space, planting trees that are highly visible and beneficial to various areas in the community, installing sprinkler systems on public and private property and adopting public parks for maintenance purposes.

Foggy Bottom proudly received 14 awards that were presented by Mayor Barry, our Councilman John Wilson and Mr. John Touchstone, Director of the Department of Public Works.

Foggy Bottom Awards: Mr. Thomas Folk of the Potomac Plaza Cooperative Apartments; Bruce Marshall, an employee of St. Mary's Court; Margaret Stoessel of Queen Anne's Lane; The Bristol Hotel; Columbia Hospital for Women; George Washington University; Guest Quarters Hotel; The Plaza Condominium; The Regent Hotel; River Inn Hotel; The Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia; the Seven Eleven store at New Hampshire Avenue and Eye Street; St. Mary's Court and St. Stephen Martyr Catholic Church.

Foggy Bottom should be very proud of receiving this recognition! About 5% of the total city awards! Next year let's get more; particularly, let's get the residents organized and pick up a few more residential awards.

## Beautification Notes

By: Mary E. Healy

Something new has been added!!! Have you seen the nine (9) new trees which were just recently planted on the south side of Pa. Ave. between 24th and 25th? They are asleep now, of course, but they promise to be lovely come spring. They are Northern Red Oak, about 12' tall, and (I'm guessing) are about ten years old.

The trees were a gift to the City and to the Foggy Bottom Community by the new Bristol Hotel which just recently opened at 2430 Pa. Ave. Some of you will remember that there were five dead trees and four empty tree spaces along that side of Pa. Ave. What a welcome addition to that block. Thank you very much new Bristol Hotel. I hope that you have started a tradition and that others will follow your suit.

## HOTEL BRISTOL OPENS: NEIGHBORHOOD INVITED TO OPEN HOUSE

After more than 18 months of construction, the Hotel Bristol opened December 27, 1984 in Foggy Bottom, becoming the newest addition to the fast-growing neighborhood.

With 240 guest suites, the hotel is reaching Washington's upscale traveler with a luxury-class approach to decor and services. It is the city's first hotel with a gourmet and imported foods emporium.

Robert Burnett, general manager of the hotel, says that when full operations are underway, the hotel will have created 250 new jobs, some of which are held by Foggy Bottom residents, including resident manager, Robert Daniels.

Since construction in August 1983, the hotel's management has become increasingly aware of the special neighborhood identity shared by Foggy Bottom and West End residents and is anxious to become a contributing member

of the neighborhood. To introduce the hotel to Foggy Bottom residents, an open house will be held at the Hotel Bristol on Sunday, February 3, 1985 from 2 to 5 p.m. All residents are cordially invited to attend the open house, which will include light refreshments and an opportunity to tour the hotel.

"We're delighted that the hotel is finally open and want to show the Foggy Bottom community our appreciation for their patience and understanding during the very difficult renovation and construction phases of the hotel. We're anxious to become a positive addition to the neighborhood by offering a full range of hotel and hospitality services. Residents of the West End are some of our main constituents and it is our goal to exceed expectations regarding our commitment to be a good neighbor. We're proud to be located in an area where quality and community concern is

paramount," said Burnett.

"This open house is intended to introduce the residents to the Hotel Bristol and its staff and provide an opportunity for residents to see firsthand the hotel's offerings. We hope all the West End residents will join us at the open house."

The Hotel Bristol, located at 2430 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. is Washington's premier all-suite hotel with a variety of suite styles, from deluxe one-room suites to a two bedroom, two bath model.

The Bristol Grill restaurant offers "New American" cuisine, including mesquite grilling. Somerset Market, which will open in mid-February, is a gourmet and imported foods store. The Market will provide Foggy Bottom residents a selection of fine foods, including baked goods, fresh salads and entrees daily, imported foodstuffs, catering services and gift baskets.



*Hotel Bristol*

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Mr. Robert Burnett

General Manager of

Washington's Premier All-Suite Hotel

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# ANC MINUTES

Meeting January 9, 1985

Former Chairman, Commissioner Stamm convened the newly-elected Commission at 7:35PM, and welcomed new member Sue Schumacher of SMD 06, who replaced retiring member Jimmy Molinelli.

**Election of officers:** The commissioners elected the following officers for 1985: Chairman, Steve Levy; 1st Vice-Chairman, Ralph Rosenbaum; 2nd Vice-Chairman, Sue Schumacher; Secretary, Lou Rigdon; Treasurer, Geoff Stamm. In addition, the commissioners appointed Jimmy Molinelli as Deputy Treasurer, and Sue Schumacher and Steve Levy were appointed Historic Preservation Co-Coordination.

Chairman Levy made the following appointments to standing committee chairmanships by unanimous consent: Environmental Services and Police Liaison, Jimmy Molinelli; Housing and Neighborhood Development, Sue Schumacher; Human Services, Lou Rigdon; Transportation, Maria Tyler; Zoning, Ralph Rosenbaum. Ad hoc committee appointments were: Bristol Hotel, Bob Alcorn; Comprehensive Plan, Ralph Rosenbaum.

As part of organizational business, the ANC adopted all

past ANC resolutions that had force and validity as of the expiration of the last commission term (moved/Levy-seconded/Rigdon; 6-0).

Chairman Levy called for an additional business meeting of the ANC in January due to the heavy schedule of zoning cases immediately ahead, and this was tentatively set for January 24.

**Cooper Houses:** These houses on the 2500 block of K Street were granted landmark status by the Historic Preservation Review Board. The current owner plans to demolish them, pleading economic hardship, and hearings are continuing before the Mayor's Agent, Artis Hampshire. The ANC has authorized not-to-exceed \$500 for the costs of expert witnesses against demolition. (moved/Levy-seconded/Rosenbaum; 6-0). All commissioners agreed they would be willing to discuss proposals for special exceptions or variances with the owner which result in saving a portion of the building.

**Comprehensive Plan/Land Use Map:** Commissioner Rosenbaum reported that the Neighborhood's main concerns were heeded by the D.C. Council and incorporated in the map enacted by

the Council. This is now before Mayor Barry for signature. Commissioner Stamm expressed special appreciation to Commissioner Tyler for her part in the lobbying efforts.

**Ray Humphrey:** The ANC voted an honorarium for Ray Humphrey, custodian of the United Church, in appreciation of his many services over the years that the ANC office has been located at the church (moved/Levy-seconded/Schumacher; 6-0).

**Announcements:** Commissioner Levy reported that the Department of Recreation had finally responded to ANC requests to remove the vandalized fieldhouse at Gallinger Playground on the 2100 block of F Street. He also announced the list of prohibited parking areas in the eastern part of the neighborhood for Inauguration Day, January 21. Bob Alcorn announced that Neighborhood Watch signs are now ready for distribution and posting as soon as a final list of the Neighborhood Watch contact for each building is compiled.

**Barriers at 24th & Virginia Avenue:** The Department of Public Works installed concrete barriers in the median strip of the 2400 block of Virginia Avenue, N.W., in the fall of 1984. The ANC protested these concrete barriers shortly after they appeared, and the ANC has since received a petition signed by

over 250 people in the immediate vicinity of the barriers asking that the barriers be removed. Dr. Morris Chalick described some of the objections residents and visitors to the area have to the barriers.

In response, the ANC asked the Department of Public Works to relocate the crossing to the west side of the 24th Street intersection with Virginia Avenue; install a pedestrian-activated traffic signal; and study the location to identify changes in vehicular traffic movement that would further improve the situation. In the meantime, the ANC re-

quested that the temporary concrete barriers be removed by April 1985, by which time pedestrians should be thoroughly acclimated to the new present location of the crosswalk (moved/Stamm-seconded/Rosenbaum; 6-0).

**Foggy Bottom Historic District:** Although this application was filed seven months ago, the city's Historic Preservation Review Board has failed to schedule a hearing on it. The ANC will confer with the Foggy Bottom Association and other city historic preservation organizations to decide on a course of further action.

## ANC2A Elects Officers

On 9 January 1985, ANC2A elected the following officers:

Office	Name	Home Telephone
Chairman	Steve Levy	333-7635
1st Vice-Chairman	Ralph Rosenbaum	466-3809
2nd Vice-Chairman	Sue Schumacher	785-0657
Secretary	Louis Rigdon	785-3994
Treasurer	Geoffrey Stamm	965-5139

Other ANC2A officials are:

Deputy Treasurer	James Molinelli
Historic Preservation Co-Coordination	Sue Schumacher
	Steve Levy
Zoning Comm. Chair	Ralph Rosenbaum
Transp Comm. Chair	Maria Tyler
Housing & Nbrhd Devel Chair	Sue Schumacher
Envir. Services & Police Liaison Chair	James Molinelli
Human Services Chair	Louis Rigdon
Bristol Hotel Chair	Robert Alcorn
Comprehensive Plan Chair	Ralph Rosenbaum

By ANC resolution, the ANC Chairman is *ex-officio* Vice-Chair of each Committee. Our Bylaws were re-adopted and our intent is to leave them unchanged. Please refer to the copy already in your files.

## THE NEW WINTER SEASON ON WETA/TV 26

A winning second season on WETA/26 this winter/spring features five series premieres, top-name talent, numerous new specials and fascinating topics.

Programs range from an intimate portrait of Lawrence of Arabia to a sizzling new performance of "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof"; from an examination of conflicts in Central America to a look at America's space program. Names familiar to WETA/26 viewers contribute to the mix: David Attenborough, Peter Graves, Jim Palmer, Judy Garland, Jeremy Brett, Treat Williams, Vanessa Redgrave, Lee Remick, Jessica Lange, LeVar Burton, Hodding Carter and Charlotte Rae.

Altogether, it's a winning combination of talent and topics in a new season of exciting TV.

### NEW SERIES

David Attenborough, author and narrator of the award-winning public television series "Life on Earth," returns this season with a fascinating sequel, **THE LIVING PLANET: A PORTRAIT OF THE EARTH.**

The new 12-part series which premieres Sunday, February 3 at 7 p.m. traces the earth's geological cycles, showing the planet as it has developed over millennia and the ways different species have adapted to their varying environments.

**DISCOVER: THE WORLD OF SCIENCE**, a four-part magazine-style series, provides provocative insights into the worlds of science, medicine and nature. Hosted by Peter Graves, the programs investigate such diverse topics as "space sickness," the behavior of sea turtles and an M.I.T. professor's unique engineering design class. The series begins Wednesday, February 6 at 8 p.m.

A lively new four-part series of half-hour programs that might best be described as a **WASHINGTON WEEK IN REVIEW** for the arts, **BACK OF THE BOOK**, premieres Thursday, February 14 at 10 p.m. National Public Radio's Susan Stamberg moderates a round-table discussion about the latest books, movies, theater and television with a rotating group of panelists.

**CAPITOL JOURNAL**, a fast-paced, live television ver-

sion of some of the best magazine journalism in America, premieres March 28 at 8 p.m. Hosted by Hodding Carter the series will look at the Congress of the United States; how it operates, and how its power is exercised in Washington and across the country.

Public television chronicles the fascinating story behind the development of America's space program in **SPACE-FLIGHT**, a four-part series narrated by Martin Sheen which premieres Wednesday, May 8. The series recaptures some of the most exhilarating moments of the "space race," and looks ahead to future exploration.

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# Crimewatch

Now that the holidays are over, it is time to talk about all those little lapses we tend to allow to happen during the time of good cheer.

Aside from several security problems within a couple of the condo/coops where the problems are being taken care of by the respective boards, most of my calls lately have involved thefts from autos and all the usual complaints which I have been dealing with this entire year. Until people realize that these complaints do not vanish into thin air and that they keep happening over and over with only name changes, we will still have to keep warning you all to watch out.

Going along our streets, I still see packages and luggage in back seats of autos in plain view of the passerby. Many of these cars belong to our local residents and even when warned, the retort is "I am only leaving them for a few hours" . . . not realizing that it only takes a thief a few seconds to break the window and remove the goodies. I still see keys left in ignitions and often even motors running. The logic behind this is that people are double parking to empty out cars but think of the ease in which your car could be

taken while your back is turned. I have also seen handbags sitting on bottom of stairs just inside open doors on both 25th and New Hampshire Avenue, in shopping carts at the Safeway and in other places.

The other afternoon, I caught the sound of a "tourist's" voice saying very sweetly of a passerby if he could take her picture . . . I watched her hand him a very expensive camera and then walk back to the edge of the sidewalk to pose. Luckily, he took her picture and then handed her back the camera. When I identified myself to her (she lives in our midst) and told her what a risk she had taken, she told me that she does this all the time all over the world and has had no problem. She is a very lucky lady as the files of police bureaus across Europe etc. are filled with cases where the cameraman vanished into the crowd. Take heed . . . you do not want to be a statistic.

I am still receiving reports of residents who live in buildings along Pennsylvania Avenue letting strange people into apartment buildings without regard to their own safety or that of their neighbors.

I have had reports of pack-

ages and envelopes left on top of mail boxes, having been opened or damaged, within apartment buildings which do not have front desks. I checked this out with the postal authorities to find that those packages are left at the risk of the person listed and that it is a federal offense to tamper with the mails. However, if the thief is not seen, who can take steps? Many of our smaller buildings have arranged with resident managers to take in packages and in most cases this has cut down on problems. But it still happens. Should you see unknown people around your mail box area in your buildings, ask them what they are doing. They may be visitors of someone in your building, but then again they may be up to no good. Also, if you are passing by your neighbor's house and you see someone going through their outside mail box looking at mail and who seems suspicious, you should report them immediately. There are still a few houses in our area with outside mail boxes and these are natural prey for thieves.

Let me hear from you if you have a problem. See you at the next Foggy Bottom and ANC meetings?

## Columbia Hospital Celebrates Christmas

Approximately 100 people from the Foggy Bottom community and the Columbia Hospital for Women Medical Center Staff joined together on December 19, 1984 to welcome Christmas to Foggy Bottom. The highlight was the lighting of the Christmas Tree. Decked with approximately 1500 lights, the tree was magnificent. Presented as a gift to Columbia in 1982 by Mary and Amelia Healy, the Christmas Tree Lighting has become one of the most enjoyable events for the hospital staff and our Foggy Bottom neighbors.

The Christmas Tree, a symbol of life, peace, and hope, was the center of activities this year. As traditional Christmas carols were sung around it, the warmth of the Yuletide season

penetrated all. A surprise visit by Santa Claus, played by a member of Columbia's Board of Directors, heightened the festivity of the occasion. However, Santa's reindeer outfits stole everyone's heart. Complete with antlers, red cheeks, and bowties, they were certainly the major topic of conversation while everyone enjoyed either the eggnog or hot cider.

Our Third Annual Christmas Tree Lighting was successful because it brought together our neighbors and friends, and rekindled the warmth of the Holiday Season. We hope to see you again in 1985, and we hope that the Christmas spirit will remain with you throughout the year!

## Monday Recorder Group (MRG) Begins Classes

MRG is preparing to start another recorder class for beginners in Foggy Bottom; and we hope you will include notices about this class in your January and February issues.

The beginners' class will start on January 21 and last about three months. The class will meet on Monday nights at The United Church, 20th and G Streets, N.W.

As usual, our beginners' class is open to people who have no musical experience. Class dues are only \$2. per month. Graduates of this class will be invited to join our continuing Monday sessions, in another playing section.

Foggy Bottom News readers who want to find out more about our class are invited to call me at 863-0279 or Virginia Singer at 544-6022.

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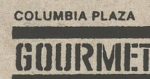
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# Application for a GWU Historic District

Steve Levy

I am pleased to provide Foggy Bottom News readers the historic district application for a portion of the George Washington University campus. As you no doubt are aware, GWU has had a long history in our neighborhood, itself first struggling to survive as a viable institution and then parts of the neighborhood fighting to survive amidst a growing and powerful university. While as a community we may now focus on our occasional conflicts with GWU, a review of this application (prepared by Emily Eig of Traceries) gives considerable insight into the historical events which provide both the institution and its officials with their motivation. I highly recommend reading it.

410.21 A statement of the prehistoric, historic, architectural and/or cultural significance of the proposed or proposed amended Historic District, and a general description of those qualities which make it significant.

George Washington University is Washington's largest and best recognized university. The University has a long and rich history reaching back to the early years of the 19th century when it was known as Columbian College. In 1904, our first President's desire for a national university, as expressed in his last will and testament, and the school was thus renamed to commemorate this tie. As a 20th century institution it is a distinctly urban school—one whose educational mission is directly

linked to its urban site. From the early years, it practiced an innovative educational philosophy and policy that was a direct response to the unique resources and needs of this city. Building on the value of its prime urban site, the University has been willing to struggle long and hard to develop a campus in its downtown location.

This application proposes the designation of Square 102 and several adjacent buildings in Squares 79 and 80 as an Historic District of the District of Columbia in recognition of their value to the development of the University and, through this, their contribution to the history and culture of the city. The George Washington University Campus Historic District represents the history of the University's commitment to Washington, D.C. and its efforts to develop a prominent role as an urban educational institution.

The school's formal campus is basically defined as the area from 19th Street west to 24th Street and F Street north to Pennsylvania Avenue. But from the school's arrival on G Street in 1912 to the recent integration of new and old buildings along 20th Street, Square 102 has been recognized as the heart of this urban university. Composed of the entire Square 102 and adjacent buildings along 21st Street, N.W., the Historic District includes the University's most significant buildings, both historically and architecturally. Each building plays a part in defining the significance of the Historic District. The location and juxtaposition of these structures manifests the phi-

losophy and ideals of George Washington University and how events and ideas have formed to the physical expression of the school, how they have affected the development of its neighborhood, and finally, how they have contributed to the culture of the District of Columbia.

1) The area relates the history of George Washington University's commitment to provide adequate facilities amid the pressure of urban life. From the purchase of 2023 G Street in 1910, its gradual collection of adjacent properties, the timely bequest of Woodhull House in 1921, the subsequent effort to organize Square 102 into a formal campus quadrangle with the Harris Plan, the impact of President Cloyd Heck Marvin, to the influence of its major benefactors, George Washington University's history and philosophy is captured by the buildings within this district.

2) The University's development in and around Square 102 has played an important role in redefining the neighborhood. Beyond the obvious introduction of an institutional aesthetic, the school's presence has significantly affected the economic focus of the area. An understanding of the effect and influence of the University on the neighborhood, and of its role as the major landholder is necessary to appreciate the impact of the school on this area. In 1912, George Washington University moved into St. Rose's Industrial School, which was on the seam of the West End and Foggy Bottom neighborhoods. Foggy Bottom was an area which mixed residential and industrial use; the West End, one of Washington's most prestigious residential areas during the second half of the

19th century, was in decline. It was easy for the school to begin appropriating property in the neighborhoods. By utilizing refurbished dwellings for classrooms and offices, it continued the residential ambience while meeting the school's needs. But in the 1920s and 1930s, as the University's enrollment grew, as it became a residential university, and as it sought to develop high visibility, it began a series of building ventures aimed at expanding the school's physical plant. Attempts to create a formal campus quadrangle, the demolition of many small-scale 19th century residential buildings and the erection of large-scaled modernist classroom structures interrupted the residential ambience of this area. The University spread and this growth blurred the distinction between the Foggy Bottom and the West End neighborhoods of the late 1800s. The University, clearly responsible for disrupting the demographic patterns, imposed its own configuration upon the area, providing a new framework for neighborhood identity. While this has brought the destruction of many historic buildings, the University's continual fight to manage and maintain space for its institutional life has also had the positive effect of holding back the intense commercial development lining the borders of the campus.

3) This area symbolizes the University's response to Washington's unique position as the federal city. It recalls the important role the University has had in fulfilling George Washington's wish for a national university. Further, these buildings are testimony to the University's commitment as an institution of

higher learning in the Nation's capital to provide quality education for both full- and part-time students. In its early years, the school played an important role in redefining traditional educational goals and objectives to allow working people to attend college at night, to include accomplished professionals on its teaching staff, to encourage alternative approaches to post-graduate study, and to actively support the integration of a residential college into the existing community.

George Washington University historian Elmer Louis Kayser, in *Bricks Without Straw*, has recognized the close association between the major structures of the school and the ideals of the men and women whose faith, dedication, and financial backing have supported it over the years. His book underscores the struggle the University has faced in its pursuit of a visual identity at its location. Unlike schools which were afforded large open space to present their aesthetic ideals, George Washington University did not have this luxury. Unlike those with the power to effect an autonomous master plan, George Washington University developed over the years within the physical and legal limitations inherent to an urban site. Beginning with the move to Foggy Bottom/West End in 1912, the school has slowly gathered space around it, first on Square 102, and then around the neighborhood.

The strength of George Washington University today rests in its independence of any denominational or other control; its location, happily chosen in the heart of the capital city, and utilization of the opportunities that that location offers; the loyalty and ability of its officers and faculty; the eminence of its graduates, particularly in the field of public service; the willingness of distinguished men and women to devote time and talents as Trustees; the faith of generous donors in its mission; and the inspiration of a worthy tradition and of a great name.

Kayser,  
*Bricks Without Straw*  
p. 311

Today, Square 102 remains the heart of the campus, and its own development aptly mirrors the University's accretive development from a small college into a large urban academic center. Its designation as an Historic District will preserve the history of the University's appreciation of the value of an urban site to the fulfillment of its educational goals and formally recognize its important contribution to the District of Columbia.

by JUDI SHEPPARD MISSETT

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**Land Use** (continued from front page)

Board of Trade and most developers on one side and an array of citizen's groups on the other (led by the Citizens' Planning Coalition), the City Council enacted into law all but the land use element. Some of you may recall the intensive lobbying effort the ANC and FBA mounted in late 1983 to have the Council reject the land use element as it was then before them. We told them how much a land use planning map needed to be a binding part of the plan, while the Mayor and developers insisted that maps should only be illustrative of the goals of the Plan and that the Office of Planning (which has repeatedly attempted to change residential areas to commercial use and to sabotage any community initiatives to prevent that) should be the body which would advise the Zoning Commission on what uses are appropriate in which areas of the city. We also tried to convince the Council that many areas of the map presented by the Office of Planning, if used as guidelines by the Zoning Commission, would result in many of our most intensively residential areas being directly rezoned to allow high density commercial or federal office uses. Other areas would have had much of the residential potential removed by allowing more intense commercial uses, which we have found usually supplant residences—where developers are given a choice. A carefully designed map is critical, because the Plan specifies that all Zoning Commission actions "shall not be inconsistent with" the Plan, and that a series of zoning changes shall be initiated to implement the Plan. Major areas changing from residential to office/commercial uses on the map would therefore severely handicap our ability to oppose actual zoning changes with potential for an adverse impact.

We (referring to all citizen's groups), and our stalwart supporters Councilmembers Wilson, Mason and Kane, persuaded Council Chairman Clarke to reject the land use element and send it back to the Office of Planning for reworking.

The Office of Planning held a series of hearings for citizen input and then adopted some of the Citizens' Planning Coalition ideas while ignoring the great mass of suggestions, including all of our proposed map changes. When the new version of the land use element was released by Office of Planning in September 1984, the Citizens' Planning Coalition and citizens groups again went into action. Map changes proposed by the ANC were again designed to protect our fragile residential base. The primary areas threatened were Columbia Plaza, the several squares south of F Street between 19th and 22nd, and the West End. Other suggested changes spoke to problems in the text.

Late on Friday November 30th, the Council released its draft Committee Print of the Bill to adopt the land use element, in which it became apparent that while we had persuaded them to reduce the allowed commercial component for Columbia Plaza to not exceed the present level, none of our other changes had been adopted, and more adverse map and policy changes had been included. The south side of the 2400 block of Pennsylvania Ave. and the south side of the 2500 block of "L" Street were switched from the moderate density residential uses shown on the land use map, to high density residential and medium density commercial—a trebling of commercial intensity. A policy had been inserted to encourage more hotels. Our old "friend", the Office of Planning, had been inserted as the body to oversee implementation of university and college campus plans and to see that citizens concerns were "considered." We heard about the release of the Committee Print late on Saturday morning, along with the Council's intention to adopt it on Tuesday morning. Needless to say, the Citizens' Planning Coalition and citizen groups were severely alarmed and moved into high gear.

By Saturday night, we were able to get a copy of the Committee Print from the Citizens' Planning Coalition and began going over it closely, during which we discovered some of the set of changes mentioned above. After working that night and Sunday morning, we managed to prepare a target list of the most critical changes needed, individual letters from the ANC to each Councilmember, and a brief guide on who to call and what to say when lobbying Councilmembers and their staffs. Through Ellie Becker's generosity and hard work, we managed to print one thousand copies of these multipage lobbying packages, which we distributed by Sunday night to some of the most impacted areas. By Monday morning, many of the ANC Commissioners, FBA Board Members and citizens had begun to swamp Councilmembers' offices with a total of between one and two thousand phone calls.

By late Monday afternoon, Chairman Clarke had called us to indicate which of our changes he could accept and support. After further discussion and specification of wording, we agreed to the compromise. Dave Clarke's support was essential, as we and our friends on the City Council could not count up the necessary seven votes to amend the Bill (Councilmember Frank Smith, who might have been the seventh vote, had decided it was more important for him to attend the baseball owners meeting to try to bring a major league team to Washington). The ANC adopted the new list in an emergency meeting Monday night, just prior to the FBA meeting, and presented it to John Wilson at the meeting.

Another round of lobbying went on Tuesday morning with each Councilmember being given the revised listing which we had agreed upon with Dave Clarke. It was necessary to argue with some staff people that our changes would not remove any existing building rights of property owners along Pennsylvania Ave. and L Street, and I and other ANC members gave our personal commitment—subject to the Council adopting our changes—to defend those property owners' present commercial development densities, should they be challenged by a map interpretation differing from ours.

With Dave Clarke offering amendments to implement some of our changes and John Wilson offering others, it was gratifying to watch the Council unanimously adopt our changes. Changes offered by some Councilmembers failed when they lacked Mr. Clarke's support. With passage by the Council on its first reading, this community managed, for the most part, to preserve the status quo, sometimes made improvements, and sometimes left ourselves grounds to fight future zoning changes. We basically accomplished the following:

- Columbia Plaza is retained as high density residential and low density commercial.
- The south sides of the 2400 block of Pennsylvania Ave. and 2500 block of L Street remain high density residential and low density commercial, reinforcing the major effort we and tenant groups have put into preventing conversion of at least one of the major buildings (2400 Pennsylvania Ave.) to medical clinic use.
- The three blocks to the south of the GWU campus, between 19th and 22nd, are further entrenched as high density residential on the northern half, while commercial/office uses are allowed on the southern half, similar to the present situation. While some developers might propose further rezoning on the southern half, there are sufficient arguments available to mount a credible zoning defense.
- The Zoning Commission will not be directed to use the Office of Planning as the overseeing body for implementing campus masterplans, leaving the Zoning Commission free to select the Board of Zoning Adjustment, which has traditionally filled that role. This is a major step, as people living on cam-

Continued, page 8

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## Land Use (continued from page 7)

pus or on its periphery have at time been severely impacted by university developments which are not clearly called for or allowed by the GWU campus plan. This is important, as the Office of Planning has usually focused so much on promoting further development that it has paid scant attention to mitigating the adverse impacts of these developments. While the Board of Zoning Adjustment has not always responded favorably to citizen concerns, we usually get a fair hearing there and often do convince them to make many changes in a proposal.

• Added encouragement for hotels has been removed.

While we did not succeed in dropping the commercial component in West End development from "medium" to "moderate" (if you are confused by these terms you're

not alone. The Plan is full of inadequately defined terms), the very vagueness of parts of the Plan allows us to argue that the allowed commercial density is already equivalent to "medium."

By December 17th it was reported to us that the Board of Trade and the Mayor were heavily lobbying Councilmembers to change large portions of the Plan back to their earlier form and to make the maps non-binding. As you may already know, a Bill must pass the Council in substantially the same form on two successive readings, two weeks apart, to be sent to the Mayor for signature. Anything other than a minor technical amendment would therefore have killed the Bill for this year. We and the Citizens' Planning Coalition again lobbied selected Councilmembers to assure

that no substantive changes were made. Councilmembers John Ray and Charlene Drew Jarvis were the only ones who attempted to make such changes at the legislative session on December 18th, and they failed to receive seven votes.

As this is written, we are waiting for the Mayor's signature. If the Mayor signs it and Congress doesn't veto it, we will have an enhanced degree of protection for much of our community. My thanks go to all the people who made this possible, ranging from those who distributed lobbying packages and called or visited Councilmembers to those Councilmembers who were responsive to our concerns—especially Mr. Wilson and Mr. Clarke. I would also like to thank the Citizen's Planning Coalition for their continuing and invaluable assistance in watching out for the interests

of the citizens of the District of Columbia.

For your further information, the text of our letter to Mr. Clarke is shown below.

2 December 1984

The Honorable  
David A. Clarke  
Chairman, Council of the  
District of Columbia  
District Building  
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Mr. Chairman:

ANC2a was pleased to submit to the Council its earlier comments on the Draft Land Use Element of the Comprehensive Plan, which were consistent with, and in support of, the overall comments submitted by the Citizens' Planning Coalition. It is clear that some of our comments were considered and adopted within the committee print. However, several key issues which we raised were not addressed, and several new elements were introduced into the committee print which would have critical adverse impact on the Foggy Bottom and West End community. We ask that you support the series of amendments to be introduced by Councilmember Wilson, and have attached a listing of the elements which are most critical to us.

Our neighborhood, which has been the most "popular" one for new development in the city, has unquestionably had major reductions in residential use and major increases in medical clinics, hotels, offices and university and international institutional use. The West End, which was highly touted as a new major center for population growth with the innovation of the C-R (evenly mixed commercial and residential use) zoning dis-

trict, saw its residential potential disappear when the Zoning Commission defined hotels as "residential". Since then, most of the new hotels developed in Washington have been in our ANC. On balance, our population shrank, between 1970 and 1980, by 20 percent to 11,679. Now, we see the Council unfortunately acquiescing when the generalized land use map shows two more of our squares—with 1801 people, nearly 16 percent of our remaining population—switching from their present residential use (R-5-D and S-P-2) to high density commercial. We know rezoning these squares will be high on the priority list of the Office of Planning. Their new fate is defined on page 59 of the print: "The business and retail heart of the District and metropolitan area includes a mix of employment, retail, office, cultural and entertainment centers." Other areas within our ANC have major, albeit less dramatic, adverse impacts facing them.

There are no terms which can adequately describe how it feels to see our area being prepared for the kill. We imagine the only things worse would be to watch a viable residential area be wiped out for freeway construction or for urban renewal—both of which happened here. We hope you will help to assure the survival of our neighborhood as a desirable residential component of the life and vitality we all want in downtown. Please help our neighborhood survive.

For the Commission,  
Geoffrey Stamm,  
Chairman  
Steve Levy,  
First Vice-Chair

## ANC Grant Program (continued from page 2)

The amount of \$5838 was the total of reimbursements received thus far from the Department of the Interior on the grant we received for Fiscal Year 1984. Commissioner Tyler opposed the resolution on several grounds: (1) that we have already expended some \$14,000 on preservation; (2) that the bulk of our work in preservation is already done and that the money could better be used elsewhere and should be kept in ANC treasury; (3) that the resolution should have been circulated for full public comment and consulting with constituents, and (4) the funds should be available to the FBA for any purpose they wish. The other Commissioners noted that (1) there is much of our present preservation work to complete and there are likely to be other cases coming up; (2) we have a balance in the Treasury of \$15,000 with another \$7000 in reimbursements coming from the city; (3) we will have and

traditionally have had trouble with the city if we carry over funds in excess of \$5000, or approximately one quarter of our budget; (4) the city has previously confiscated some funds from our accounts, and the ANC is powerless to prevent this; (5) the grant is a means of assuring that these funds, which came as reimbursement for community efforts, stay in the community and are applied to continue the work of historic preservation; and (6) an unconditional grant to the FBA would be strongly opposed by the West End Citizens Association, unless it received more comparable funds. After extensive discussion, with Tyler's motion to table failing and Rosenbaum's call of the question passing, the ANC passed the resolution. (Subsequent to the meeting, consultation with the ANC Counsel determined that the ANC may not make an unconditional grant of funds.)

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